

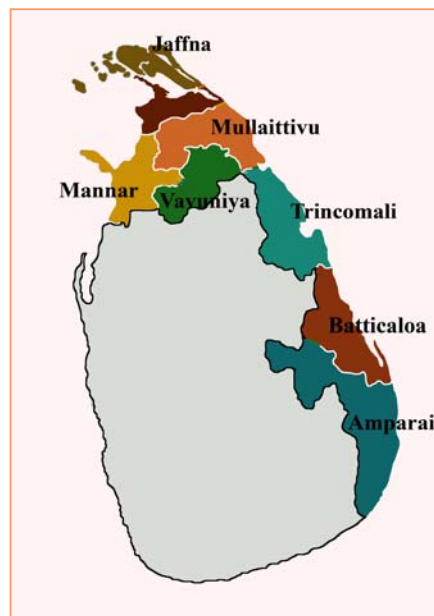


Human rights and humanitarian situation report in Tamil Eelam for **January 2007**

Press release of LTTE Peace Secretariat

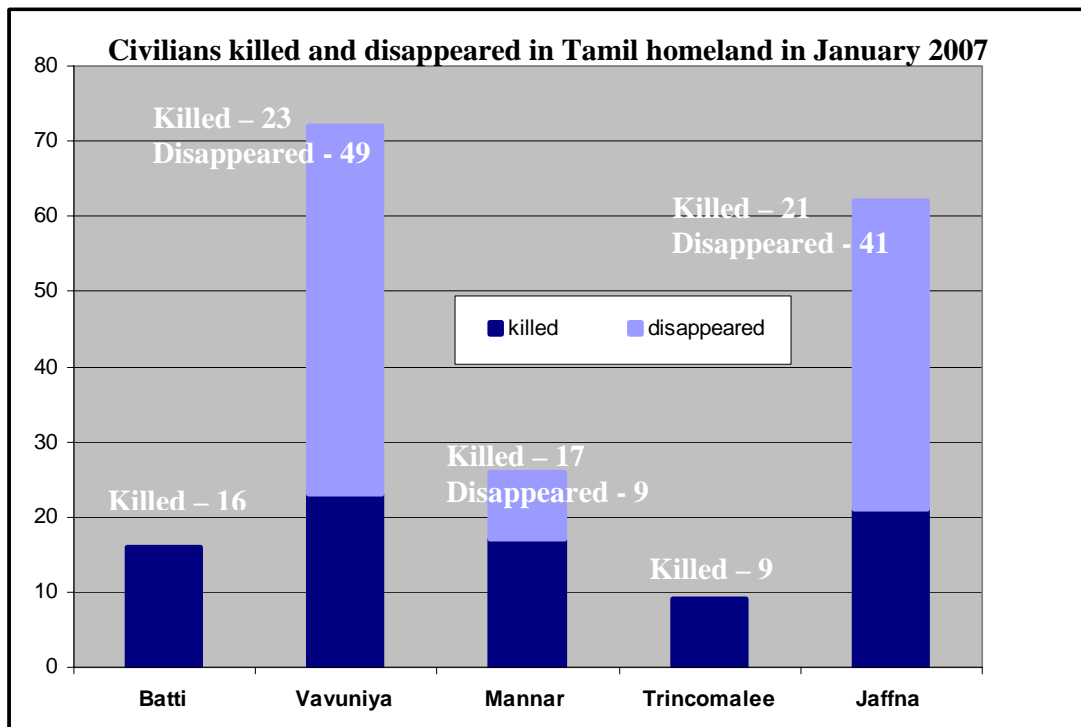
**Civilian casualty during Cease fire
– 2002 till present**

<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>
Killed	1561
Disappeared	635
Displaced	210,000
Militarized	300,000



Killing, Disappearance & Torture

The bar-graph shows the number of Tamil civilians killed by GoSL operated forces, in the Tamil homeland, in the month of January. People being abducted and later surfacing as bodies increased in January. There were two aspects of the killing and disappearance that deserves a special mention.





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Jaffna

In Jaffna the number of people seeking protection from threats to their lives, at the Jaffna branch of the human rights commission, has become increasingly common. Due to lack of any other facility, where those who seek protection could be given refuge, they have been produced before the courts and then placed in prison.

This is a very unique occurrence in the world that should have attracted the attention of the entire world. Alas, this has been hardly noted by the international human rights community.

The human rights commissioners in Jaffna have demanded that a special centre be created for those who seek protection. Ignoring this request, the ruling Sri Lankan military in Jaffna has proposed to shift those who have sought protection in this manner under their custody. This is most intriguing.

Among those who have sought protection in this manner are ten under-18-year-olds. More than 12,000 school students are boycotting classes protesting threats to their lives from the military. The student boycott is continuing and has gone on for nearly two weeks.

School and University students have been increasingly targeted in January for the “killing, disappearance & torture” treatment by the GoSL operated forces. Some students have been released following severe torture resulting in permanent damage. They lie low after release because threat to their lives is even more acute after such a treatment.

Among those killed in January in Jaffna is a 38 years old a pastor from the Tamil Mission Church in Jaffna, Nallathamby Gnanaseelan, who was shot and killed on 13 January 2007 by the Sri Lankan military in Chapel Street in Jaffna. His body was left alone on the road after his possessions were removed.

Vavuniya

Killing and disappearance saw a sharp increase in the Vavuniya district in the month of January. In one incident four people in a home were killed one of whom is an employee of the MSF international organization also known as Doctors Without Borders. Vavuniya human rights commission has recorded 49 disappearances in January.

Bombing and shelling

The most notable mass killing in the month of January is the aerial bombing of the fishing village of Padahuthurai in the Mannar district, on 2 January. Among the victims are, 7 children killed, two children maimed and 13 children injured. In several of the affected families, parents and children are the victims.



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Vijey aged 35 lost his leg, so did his eight year old son Vithusan lying next to his injured mother Stella at Kilinochchi hospital. Their four year old son Vinojan was killed.



A report and a video documentary on this massacre of one extended family can be downloaded at, <http://www.ltteps.org/?view=1833&folder=2>.

Responding to the outcry of the civilian deaths the Sri Lankan military spokesperson said that he is definite that the bomber hit LTTE bases because spy planes were confirming the spot prior to during and after the bombing. When pressed by a BBC journalists that very young children were killed in the bombing, Samarasinghe said that “*the LTTE keeps children in their bases*”. This response, a knee jerk reaction to use the “child soldier” issue to cover up any horrendous crime against children, and thus convince them and hope to convince the world that the culprits are the LTTE and not them, has become a hallmark of the Government of Sri Lankan in general.

Sri Lankan military with immunity accorded to it continued to target civilians with shelling in the north and south. Civilian areas in Poonahari in Kilinochchi, Kollanullai and Thikiliveddai in Batticaloa and Muththaiyankaddu in Mullaitivu came and shelling and bombing. Paddy fields ready for harvest, livestock and homes were damaged in these attacks. In Batticaloa more than 7500 civilians displaced in fear following bombing and shelling. People in Mannar also displaced in fear of seeing large military buildup near their villages. Nearly 300 villagers from Kokupadayan in Mannar displaced in such circumstances.

Medicines ban to Vanni – denial of humanitarian access to children?

Quantities of drugs assigned by the Ministry of Health to the public hospitals in LTTE areas have not reached the hospitals for several months. The hospitals have restricted the use of the medicines in order to stretch the available medicines to as many patients as possible. When the hospitals contacted Ministry of Health about the shortfall, the Ministry responded saying that they have indeed sent the requested quantities of medicines. The Ministry of Defense in fact is preventing the medicines sent by the Ministry of Health from reaching the hospitals in LTTE areas.

Stocks of many medicines for common childhood ailments like, asthma and epilepsy are at dangerously low levels. Children are being prescribed half the doses only making them come back



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to hospital with acute illnesses. Even antibiotics and surgical material like bandages, cotton wool etc are held back by the Sri Lankan Ministry of Defense.

The Table shows quantities of some of the common medicines requested by the Kilinochchi hospital, the largest hospital in Vanni, serving a population more than 400,000 people, what the hospital has received and the level of the stock at the hospital at present.

Name of drugs	Quantity Estimated for 2006	Quantity received at 31.12.2006	Stock in hand
Antibiotics			
Tab. Metronidazole 200 mg	300,000	156,000	Nil
Inj. Ampicillin 250 mg	40,000	18,898	300
Inj. Cloxacillin	50,000	31,000	500
Epilepsy			
Tab. Carbamezapine 200mg	100,000	77,000	Nil
Tab. Clonazepam 0.5mg	20,000	6,000	Nil
Tab. Sodium Valporate 200mg	60,000	35,000	Nil
Asthma			
Salbutamal aerosol inhaler	200	50	Nil
Caps. Beclamethazole dry powder 200	250,000	69,000	500

Spin Doctoring

Some fascinating instances of spin doctoring by the GoSL emerged in January.

In Amparai, GoSL went to town publishing photos of “torture chambers, cannabis growing and illegal logging” by the LTTE. In the end none were proved and the latter two activities were in fact carried out by some Sinhala villagers in Amparai with the tacit approval of the Sri Lankan military. A detail report is at, <http://www.ltteps.org/?view=1836&folder=2>

Also in Amparai, GoSL charged an international NGO of supplying material to the LTTE but later retracted it. Such activities have the psychological effect of making it difficult for the INGOs to work in LTTE areas, thus removing independent witnesses and denying people humanitarian aid.

These examples must be seen as a window into the extent of “Lies Manufacturing” carried out by the GoSL. This is further facilitated by restricting free flow of information by cutting phone lines and denying newsprint material as is the case in Jaffna.

Note: For extensive information on the above and other human rights topic in the Tamil homeland please visit : <http://www.ltteps.org>

LTTE Peace Secretariat